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DCI/I. Nixon-Radio Free Europe 400  
DDI BY FRANK CORMIER  
DD/M& Associated Press Writer  
DDO ( KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. AP - President Nixon said today he will  
DDS/T soon ask Congress to finance continued operation of the controversial  
D/OCI "radio Free Europe" and Radio Liberty broadcasts  
ONE to iron curtain countries.  
OSR Nixon did so in making public a report of a presidential  
OSI ( study commission, headed by Milton S. Eisenhower, set up to  
Ch/Ops review international radio broadcasting. Some congressional  
PDB critics have objected to the content of broadcasts by the two  
INDICC organizations and their past subsidization by the Central  
DDO/DC Intelligence Agency.  
IW In a statement, Nixon said:  
SAVA "I endorse wholeheartedly the conclusion of the commission  
OSD that these voices of free information and ideas serve our  
national interest and merit the full support of the Congress and  
the American people."

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The President said "the free flow of information and of ideas among nations is a vital element in normal relations between East and West and contributes to an enduring structure of peace." Federal financing of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty will expire June 30 unless Congress acts. The Eisenhower commission reported to Nixon Feb. 5 with the expectation that Nixon would "wish to submit your financial and policy recommendations to the Congress as early as possible in the present session." There was no immediate White House explanation for the three-month delay in making the report public. "For millions of listeners on the European continent," Nixon said, "radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty are sources of reliable, comprehensive information. They make available a broad range of news and news analysis which we in the West take so much for granted that we sometimes forget that such information is denied to others."

Comment:

The Eisenhower panel, in a 91-page report, said it made its inquiry "in an atmosphere of dispassionate skepticism." It concluded the two ostensibly private broadcasting organizations "actually contribute to a climate of detente rather than detract from it," by providing "uncensored information" to listeners in the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria.

"The stations are listened to regularly and appreciatively in the six countries," the commission said.

The study group recommended that Congress create a board for international broadcasting that would receipt appropriations and make federal grants to the two broadcast groups.

It said the board should be responsible "for assuring that the stations do not operate in a manner inconsistent with broad United States foreign policy objectives." And it urged that such a board "be vigilant on behalf of the professional independence of the stations."

The commission reported the "Soviet Union, by the use of powerful transmitters, has increased its broadcasts to other countries including the United States."

It said plans should be made for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty to function for 10 years "since it is unlikely that the free movement of information in the Soviet sphere will become a reality any time soon."

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